



# What's New in the City

## City of Natchitoches

### Celebrate Independence Day at Celebration on the Cane July 4th

The City of Natchitoches invites you to celebrate Independence Day at Celebration on the Cane Monday, July 4, 2016 on the downtown riverbank. The annual Fourth of July Celebration will feature live musical entertainment, delicious food vendors, amusements for kids of all ages, and a spectacular fireworks show over Cane River Lake. Admission to Celebration on the Cane is free and open to the public.

Activities for Celebration on the Cane will kick off at 12:00 p.m. with inflatable water slides and bounce houses for the kids. A variety of food vendors will sell Fourth of July favorites such as Italian ice, funnel cakes, meat pies, hot dogs and more. Trinket vendors will also be on site with Independence Day memorabilia and souvenirs.

Musical entertainment kicks off at 3:00 p.m. with a performance by Cane Mutiny, a musical collective based in Natchitoches and centered around the musical influences of multi-instrumentalists John Litzenberg and Ed Huey, and featuring guitarist Donnie Hyams and drummer Sammy Nix. Playing a variety of Louisiana and Americana music spanning the genres of swamp pop, funk, soul,



(Continued on page 2)

### City Seeking Public Comments on Riverfront Improvement Project

The City of Natchitoches is seeking comments from the public on the proposed master

plans for the Riverfront Improvement Project.

The plans for the project are available for viewing on the first floor of City Hall located at 700 2nd Street. The public may send an email to [information@natchitochesla.gov](mailto:information@natchitochesla.gov) or leave a comment on the comment cards available at City Hall.

The proposed project has been available for review and comment beginning on or about June 6, and the comment period will end on July 15. The Riverfront Improvement Project (Rue Beauport) is sponsored by the Cane River Waterway Commission and the City of Natchitoches.



July 1, 2016

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#### Did you know?

- Rodney Jacobs, Purchasing Warehouse Manager, was named Employee of the Month for June 2016. Jacobs has worked with the City for 15 years and is described as being someone who quietly takes care of business.
- The Southeast Tourism Society named the 90th Annual Christmas Festival of Lights one of the STS Top 20 Events in the Southeast for November 2016.
- Starting July 10th, the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum will have new hours. The Museum will be open Tuesday - Saturday from 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., with the last ticket sold at 4:00 p.m. The Museum will be closed on Sunday, Monday and all State Holidays.
- NSU's School of Creative and Performing Arts will host Fun With Music Camp July 11—16 for children ages 5 to 11. The fee is \$140 per student. Call (318) 357-5754 for more information.

## Celebration on the Cane (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

country, blues, R&B and rock, Cane Mutiny combines a deep connection to the history of popular music with the energy of a New Orleans second line, showcasing original and other music from throughout the 20th century and beyond. Cane Mutiny will perform on the riverbank stage from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The excitement continues at 6:00 p.m. with a live performance by the G.Q.P. Band. The G.Q.P. Band exudes great quality with precision and is a versatile party band playing a mixture of Southern Soul, Zydeco, blues, classic rock, R&B and swing out jams. G.Q.P.'s focus is to provide the best entertainment for all occasions no matter the audience. The G.Q.P. Band will perform on the riverbank stage from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

No Fourth of July celebration would be complete without fireworks. At 9:00 p.m., the festivities will conclude with a spectacular fireworks show over Cane River Lake.

Admission to Celebration on the Cane is free and open to the public.

The downtown riverbank will be closed to motorists all day on July 4. Those attending Celebration on the Cane should make plans to park on Front Street or elsewhere within the Natchitoches Historic District.

In preparation for the fireworks show, the Church Street Bridge will close to all traffic, including pedestrians and motorists, at 8:30 p.m. In addition, Williams Avenue from Whitfield to Henry Avenue will also close at 8:30 p.m. The roadway and bridge will reopen after the fireworks show is completed.

For more information, please call the Natchitoches Main Street Office at (318) 352-2746 or visit [www.downtownnatchitoches.com](http://www.downtownnatchitoches.com).

## Hometown Teams Programming Continues at LASHOF & NWLA History Museum

Summer programming in association with the "Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America" exhibit continues in July at the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum.

On Saturday, July 9th, the LASHOF & NWLA History Museum invites parents to let them take the kids off your hands for a memorable movie night at the museum! Featuring popcorn, hot dogs, nachos and candy, the event is an evening of movies and crafts for children in 3rd through 8th grades. The fun begins at 5:00 p.m. and ends at 10:00 p.m. The evening includes refreshments sponsored by the Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission and FLASH. The program is FREE but space is limited and pre-registration is required. Please call (318) 357-2493 to register or email [jbiddis-combe@crt.la.gov](mailto:jbiddis-combe@crt.la.gov).

On Tuesday, July 12th, join the museum for a screening of the 2013 LEH Documentary Film of the Year "T-Galop: A Louisiana Horse Story" followed by a Q&A session with filmmaker Connie Castille starting at 6:00 p.m. South Louisiana has a long, storied equine history, from Cajun cowboys to Mamou Mardi Gras revelers to a certain Kentucky Derby champion with one beautiful accent. Director Connie Castille explores that history in "T-Galop: A Louisiana Horse Story." Castille's film traces the his-

tory of Louisiana's equine connections from the colonial period to the present day, paying special attention to traditions surrounding horses in the Cajun and Creole cultures. The program is FREE and open to the public.

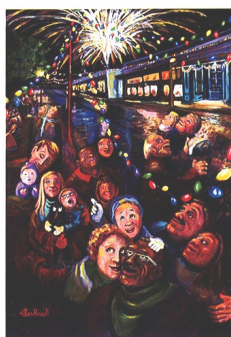
On Thursday, July 21st, the museum teams up with the Natchitoches Young Professionals for an evening of Sports and History Trivia starting at 5:00 p.m. Teams will compete for prizes while enjoying light refreshments sponsored by the Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission and FLASH with a cash bar. The NYP socials are a chance to get together, meet new people, and make Natchitoches better. Members and Non-Members are welcome! The program is FREE and open to the public.

On Saturday, July 30th, please join the museum for a program with NSU Assistant Professor in the Culinary Arts, Valerie Salter, on the importance of good nutrition. The program also includes a Zumba demonstration to get everyone moving! We encourage kids, adults and families to join us for an informative and fun afternoon. The event begins at 2:00 p.m. The program is FREE and open to the public.

Hometown Teams is part of Museum on Main Streets, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institute and the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the United States Congress.

## Deadline July 8th for Christmas Festival Poster Contest

Artists are being sought to design the 2016 Natchitoches Christmas Festival Poster. The theme for the poster is "Christmas in Natchitoches." Artists who would like to enter the contest should submit a drawing or painting to the Natchitoches Arts Council using the chosen theme. The size of the completed sketch or painting should be 18 inches wide and 24 inches tall. If chosen, the painting will become the exclusive property of the Natchitoches Arts Council. The chosen artist will receive a commission of \$600.



The deadline for entering the competition is Friday, July 8, 2016. All entries should be submitted to Alicia Rachal, Community Development, 420 Fourth Street, Natchitoches, LA 71457. The Natchitoches Arts Council is not responsible for insuring the safe or timely delivery of the art work to the appropriate party.

For more information about the poster contest, please call Karen Terrell at (318) 352-6925 or Alicia Rachal at (318) 357-3838.



## 37th Annual Folk Festival July 15 & 16

The 37th Annual Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival will be held July 15—16 in Prather Coliseum which is located at 220 South Jefferson Street in Natchitoches on the campus of Northwestern State University. The site is wheelchair accessible and the festival is family oriented. No alcohol is allowed or sold on the site.

The 2016 Festival theme is “Emerging Artists,” celebrating the many outstanding new artists keeping traditions alive in Louisiana.

The Annual Louisiana State Fiddle Championship will also be part of the Festival. The Fiddle Championship will be held July 16 at 1:00 p.m. in Magale Recital Hall. There will be a non-championship class and a championship class. Registration is at noon in the second floor foyer outside Magale Recital Hall. The Fiddle Championship winner will perform on the main stage in Prather Coliseum at 5:30 p.m.

The festival features a lineup of more than 20 musical acts. “This year’s line-up of artists is amazing,” stated Dr. Shane Rasmussen, director of the festival and the Louisiana Folklife Center at NSU. “Folks are going to love the Vietnamese lion dancers, and no one plays traditional New Orleans jazz better than

Meschiya Lake and the Little Big Horns. These are artists like Briggs Brown and Wayne Singleton, who play their accordions to share their joy in their culture. The talent and passion of these young artists is simply off the charts. Louisiana is a better place because folks like Sarah Jayde Williams and Bubba Hebert choose to live and play here. We are honored that these artists are joining us at the Festival.”

The Festival includes several opportunities for patrons to engage directly with Louisiana Folk culture including harmonica workshops led by blues artist Ed Huey, and a rubboard workshop conducted by Zydeco artists Tee Don Landry, Goldman Thibodeaux, Zydeco Joe Citizen, and Wayne Singleton.

Narrative sessions will include programs on Choctaw-Apache youth culture, Caddo pottery, children’s folkways, Cajun music, Vietnamese-American culture, building rural space music and performances by Meschiya Lake and the Little Big Horns and the Sarah Jayde Combeaux.

Nearly four dozen craftspeople have been invited to display their traditional work on Saturday and discuss their work with those attending the Festival. Craftspeople are expected to display furniture, art, toys, dolls, jewelry, whips, file, handmade musical instruments, baskets, weaving, pottery, beadwork and more.

Two day all-events passes may be purchased in advance through July 12 at the Louisiana Folklife Center at a discounted price of \$12 per person. Tickets can be purchased at Prather Coliseum on July 15—16. Children age 12 and under receive free admission to all events on both days. Ticket prices for adults are \$5.50 per person for Friday, July 15; \$8.50 per person for all event on Saturday, July 16; and \$5.50 per person for an evening pass to all events after 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 16.

For more information call (318) 357-4332.

## Meat Pie Triathlon July 10



The 14th Annual Meat Pie Triathlon is scheduled for Sunday, July 10, 2016 in downtown Natchitoches.

One of the state’s largest triathlons, over 200 competitors ages 14 to 84 are expected to compete.

The Meat Pie Triathlon begins with a spectator-friendly 1/2 mile swim in Cane River Lake, followed by a 20 mile bike ride over light rolling terrain. The race will conclude with a 5K run through the Natchitoches Historic District finishing under the beautiful canopy of oaks along Cane River Lake.

For more information on the Meat Pie Triathlon, visit [www.sportspectrum.com](http://www.sportspectrum.com).

## Christmas Festival Parade Applications Available

Marching units, bands, dance teams, cheer groups, specialty units, and float participants are invited to be a part of the 90th Annual Natchitoches Christmas Festival of Lights Parade which will take place on Saturday, December 3, 2016. Interested groups must submit an application for inclusion in the parade. Parade applications are available online and must be submitted by September 15, 2016.

The Natchitoches Christmas Festival of Lights Parade is the preeminent holiday parade recognized for its tradition of excellence. The parade embodies a unique blend of young and old parade units who annually delight Natchitoches Christmas Festival of Lights audiences.

Those who wish to be included in the 90th Annual Natchitoches Christmas Festival of Lights Parade can submit applications online at [www.NatchitochesChristmas.com/parade-application](http://www.NatchitochesChristmas.com/parade-application).

For more information, please contact Cassy Gebhart, Parade Team Co-Chair, at (318) 332-6885 or Jill Leo, HDBA Director of Festival and Events, at (318) 652-7078.

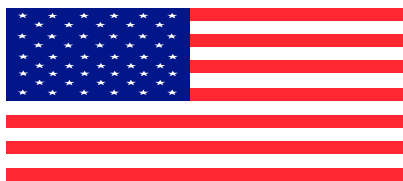
**Oldest Permanent  
Settlement in the  
Louisiana Purchase**

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**Phone: 318-352-2772**

**Fax: 318-357-3829**

**E-mail:  
cityhall@natchitochesla.gov**



**Happy Fourth of July!**

**The City of Natchitoches will  
be closed Monday, July 4 in  
honor of Independence Day.**

## **Natchitoches Families Can Participate in Friendship Family Program for International Students**

Families in the Natchitoches area can participate in a unique opportunity to learn about other cultures, traditions, and languages through the Friendship Family Program sponsored by Northwestern State University's International Student Resource Center.

The Friendship Family is not a homestay program, but does let local families and international students spend time together and learn from one another, according to Telba Espinoza-Contreras, director of the International Resource Center. Individuals and families of all types are welcome to participate.

"The purpose of the program is to provide students and local families with an opportunity to share their cultures and experiences from their home countries," said Espinoza-Contreras. "Families can invite students for family outings, informal family meals, holiday celebrations and any other activity in town or around that will help international students get acquainted with life away from home and adds to their un-

derstanding and appreciation of American culture and traditions."

The International Student Resource Center will arrange the initial meeting. Families will be asked to meet with students at least four times a semester or about once a month. Students can also invite host families to university events and share their activities on campus. There are no housing, financial or counseling requirements to participate.

"This can be an enriching experience and opportunity to learn about different cultures, traditions and languages," said Espinoza-Contreras. "Your family will also have the satisfying feeling of providing a home away from home for a student who is far from family and home. International students bring a fascinating new world to your home and an opportunity to appreciate the richness of other cultures."

For more information, call (318) 357-5939, email [contrerast@nsula.edu](mailto:contrerast@nsula.edu) or go to [nsula.edu/international/familyfriendship](http://nsula.edu/international/familyfriendship).

## **Upcoming Holidays & Important Dates**

Cane River  
Green Market,  
Each Saturday  
8 a.m. to 12  
noon on the  
Downtown  
Riverbank.



July 4: Independence Day, City Of-  
fices Closed

July 4: Celebration on the Cane, 12  
noon –9 p.m. on the Downtown  
Riverbank

July 5: Planning & Zoning Meeting,  
5:30 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts  
Center

July 6: Historic District Commission  
Meeting, 5:00 p.m. at the Natchito-  
ches Arts Center

July 9: Children's Movie and Craft  
Night, 5:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m. at Lou-  
isiana Sports Hall of Fame and  
Northwest Louisiana History Mu-  
seum

July 10: Meat Pie Triathlon, Down-  
town Natchitoches

July 11: City Council Meeting, 5:30  
p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center

July 12: Screening of "T-Galop: A  
Louisiana Horse Story" and Film-  
maker Q&A, 6:00 p.m. at Louisiana  
Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest  
Louisiana History Museum

July 15–16: 37th Annual Natchito-  
ches-Northwestern Folk Festival at  
Prather Coliseum

July 18: Airport Commission Meet-  
ing, 5:00 p.m. at Natchitoches Re-  
gional Airport

July 21: Historic District Develop-  
ment Commission Meeting, 10:00  
a.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center

July 21: Sports & History Trivia  
Night, 5:00 p.m. at Louisiana Sports  
Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisi-  
ana History Museum

July 25: City Council Meeting, 5:30  
p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center

July 30: Fitness & Nutrition Program,  
2:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. at Louisiana  
Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest  
Louisiana History Museum